ACTIVITY: INCOME AND TAXES

TASK:
In your groups,

1) Review the facts on the next few pages.

2) List the questions you have.

3) Select one fact that you think will be the most useful to share with others to highlight the importance of voting in this year's election.

4) Identify someone to record the group's answers and report back to the entire group the fact the group chose and why.

Definition of Income and Taxes

INCOME is what we're paid for our work. For most people, income includes paychecks, earnings from self-employment, and interest on a savings account.

Some people also directly get dividends (basically the same as interest) from shares of stock they own, either directly or through a 401(k) or profit sharing plan.

TAXES pay for public services including schools, public parks, libraries, roads, police, prisons, courts, health and welfare benefits and the operation of the government.

Sources of local and state TAXES are personal income tax, property tax and sales tax.

Developed by Community Votes
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**FACT #1**

**SHARE OF ALL INCOME GOING TO THE TOP 1 PERCENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1980</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York State</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York City</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
<td>40.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**FACT #2**

**INCOME GROWTH IN NEW YORK STATE**

Source: Sommeiller and Price, and FPI estimates.

Charts from Fiscal Policy Institute Policy Brief March 2017
FACT #3
PERCENT OF NEW YORK STATE AND LOCAL TAX BURDEN BY INCOME GROUP

![Chart showing tax burden by income group.](chart.png)

Charts from Fiscal Policy Institute Policy Brief March 2017

FACT #4
VOTER TURNOUT BY INCOME IN NYC

In the 2016 National election:

- 36% of New York City eligible voters with incomes below $20,000 voted
- 92% of New York City eligible voters with incomes over $150,000 voted

Source: U.S. Census and New York City Board of Elections data as compiled by the New York Civic Engagement Table
FACT #5

States With The Highest Levels Of Income Inequality

SOURCE: https://www.zippia.com/advice/states-highest-lowest-income-inequality/Zippa
Data from U.S. Census 2016